MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

Begin, Shamir Statements -- Israel's settlement program cannot be frozen, "just as it is impossible to freeze life itself," Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Knesset in a speech reported by IDF Radio. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel does not want to highlight disputes with the United States by making "unnecessary declarations" and emphasizing differences of opinion, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir noted that it is possible for Israel to reach an understanding with the United States about arrangements for Lebanon.

Tabah Situation -- Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Gen Moshe Levi "angered" the Egyptians when he entered the demilitarized zone during a visit to the Tabah area, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The subcommittees worked "seriously and strenuously" on Israeli-Lebanese relations and security arrangements and will continue negotiations on 2 February, the Israeli spokesman announced at the end of the 1 February talks in Netanya in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. While views were "close" on most issues, discussion of some questions was postponed pending Lebanese, Arab, and international developments, Beirut radio reported.

Al-Wazzan-'Arafat Talks -- After meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunisia, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said they had discussed the negotiations on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon as well as "matters pertaining to the withdrawal of the Palestinian forces," Beirut radio reported. According to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, 'Arafat and Al-Wazzan also discussed the conditions of Palestinians residing in Lebanon.

'Alayh Fighting -- Artillery exchanges continued in the 'Alayh area, Beirut radio reported. Jerusalem radio said 17 people were killed and 34 were wounded in the Druze-Christian fighting.

Syria

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam declared that the security of Syria and Lebanon are "closely connected" and that the aim of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is to strike at the Syrian military forces in Lebanon and harm Syria, which is the main obstacle to the goals of the imperialist-Zionist alliance, Damascus television reported citing Khaddam's statement to the 1 February People's Assembly session. He said Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's announcement that Israel would agree to Syrian early warning stations to counter Israeli early warning stations in Lebanon "is to be ridiculed" and that Syria will "never" accept any compromise or bargaining on the future of Lebanon, its independence, or sovereignty.

PLO

PNC Speaker Kahlid al-Fahum stressed that the most important issue on the agenda of the 14 February PNC session is Palestinian national unity, under present circumstances a "life or death" issue, Damascus radio reported citing Al-Fahum's remarks during a Damascus news conference. He declared that the PNC will issue a political declaration that will reiterate Palestinian national unity, define the PLO's relationship with Arab

countries, reaffirm rejection of the Camp David accords, and stress the need to help the legitimate Lebanese authorities achieve the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Al-Fahum added that the declaration will outline the PLO's relationship with Jordan on the basis of PNC resolutions stressing that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people and will not concede its right to any party whatsoever to speak or act on its behalf. He also said the declaration will reject President Reagan's initiative and emphasize the importance of promoting the PLO's relations with the Soviet Union.

Libya

Arab People's Congress -- Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi called for stepping up revolutionary opposition in the Arab homeland and for drafting an "action program," Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio reported citing Al-Qadhdhafi's speech at the 1 February opening session of the Arab people's congress in Tripoli. He declared that the Arab nation must awaken to the danger of Israel, which possesses nuclear weapons, and that the Arabs would be within their "rights" to destroy Israel's nuclear plant at Dimona.

Diplomacy -- PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad arrived in Libya following his visit to Algeria and said that vital Arab and international issues will be discussed during his stay, Tripoli radio reported.

Gulf Affairs

Oil Prices -- The Arab Gulf states are about to declare a $4-per-barrel cut in their oil prices in order to protect their interests and maintain their oil markets, the Manama paper GULF DAILY NEWS reported citing informed sources in Kuwait. Meanwhile, Saudi Oil Minister Yamani said the Kingdom does not consider itself obligated to maintain the $34-per-barrel OPEC benchmark price, but would protect it "as far as it could," according to OPECNA quoting Yamani's interview with the London paper AD-DUSTUR.

Iran

Syrian Delegation -- A Syrian delegation headed by Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad arrived in Tehran for talks with the Iranian authorities, IRNA noted. After talks with the minister, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that when Iran has overthrown Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime it will devote a large part of its resources to waging a serious struggle against Israel, Tehran radio reported.

Montazeri Address -- The survival of the Islamic Revolution depends on sincerity, piety, and the possession of Islamic and ideologically motivated morals, "Grand Ayatollah" Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri declared in a revolution anniversary message broadcast by Tehran radio. Decisionmakers should refrain from taking "defensive and reactionary measures," he said, and "dedicated forces" should not be prevented from offering their services. Montazeri also said the government should be supported and the Majlis strengthened.

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KARMAL, DOST RECEIVE INDIAN OFFICIAL 1 FEBRUARY

LD011524 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon received Natwar Singh, secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and secretary general designate for the nonaligned summit countries, at the Revolutionary Council for a courtesy call. They discussed the forthcoming summit of the nonaligned countries' state or government leaders.

Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, and Dixit, Indian ambassador to Kabul, also were present at the meeting.

According to another report, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, this morning received Natwar Singh, secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs for a courtesy call. They discussed relevant topics.

Sarwar Yuresh and Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy ministers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Indian ambassador to Kabul were present at the meeting.

Later Talks, Luncheon

LD011542 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, this morning talked with Natwar Singh, secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, concerning the work of the forthcoming summit of the nonaligned countries' state or government leaders due to be held in New Delhi in March this year. They discussed topics of interest to both countries.

The talks, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, were attended by the deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian ambassador to Kabul.

According to another report, a luncheon was given by Shah Mohammad Dost at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in honor of Natwar Singh and his entourage. The deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the DRA ambassador to New Delhi, Hasan Sharq; senior Foreign Ministry officials; the Indian ambassador to Kabul; and members of that country's embassy attended the luncheon.

Another report adds that Shah Mohammad Dost attended a dinner given by the Indian ambassador, J. Dixit, at his residence. Natwar Singh, deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Afghan ambassador to New Delhi, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and members of the Indian Embassy in Kabul also attended the dinner.

Delhi ISI Report

BK011607 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1442 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Natwar Singh, secretary in Ministry of External Affairs, reached Kabul on January [as received] to have consultations with Afghan leaders in connection with the forthcoming nonaligned summit conference. Minutes after his arrival in Kabul, Natwar Singh, accompanied by Ambassador Dixit called on Foreign Minister Dost at Afghan Foreign Office.

Natwar Singh had an hour-long discussion with Prime Minister Keshtmand and another 45-minute discussion with President Karmal during which matters related to the nonaligned summit were discussed. There was wide-ranging discussion on international problems as well as bilateral relations.

Natwar Singh also reviewed with Prime Minister Keshtmand certain aspects of progress made in Indo-Afghan cooperation under the aegis of the Indo-Afghan joint commission since his visit in May 1982.

MUJAHIDIN KILL 'FOREIGN' TROOPS, ADVISERS

BK020300 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say Afghan mujahidin killed 11 foreign soldiers and damaged a tank in a clash in Farah Province.

The reports also say that in another clash, nine people were either killed or injured, including foreign advisers, and two Soviet tanks and an antiaircraft battery were damaged.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES WIPED OUT' IN 3 PROVINCES

GF011810 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1230 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Soldiers and officers of the security forces have wiped out numerous counterrevolutionaries in Ghazni, Badakhshan, and Baghlan. The report says that the above-mentioned group had many rocket launchers in their possession.

AFP: YOUTHS PRESS-GANGED INTO MILITARY SERVICE

BK011645 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 1 (AFP) -- Almost every Afghan male school-leaver is to be drafted into the army this year, according to Western diplomatic sources were today.

Only girls and "special students" will be allowed to sit university entrance exams as the Afghan authorities seek desperately to plug the gaps in the armed forces depleted by desertion and death.

After delaying university entrance exams for two months the authorities announced that the exam would be held on February 6 and would be open only to girls and "special students" -- understood to mean young Afghan communist party members. Students who have fled to Pakistan estimate that the draft decision will hit about a thousand youngsters.

A number of schoolboys have already been press-ganged in recent weeks by recruiting teams who search homes and arrest youths in the street, according to the same source.

Resistance sources also report that a number of conscripts due for release after serving three years had been retained, leading to a mutiny at a garrison at Khost in the south-east of the country.

Western diplomatic sources in Kabul also claim that it is not unusual for men of over 50 to be press-ganged during military sweeps of towns and villages and that last week porters at Kabul Airport were conscripted.

Western military experts estimate that the Afghan Army, which in 1973 was 90,000 strong, has been reduced to 20,000 because of massive desertions and increasing losses. Senior Afghan Army officers deserting to Pakistan report that the Army has only 15,000 men left.

The Soviet expenditionary force in the country consists of 105,000 men, according to Western experts, to which must be added tens of thousands more reserve troops stationed on the Soviet side of the border.

The Kabul government has decided to make another attempt to draft men from the Pashtu tribe in the eastern province of Paktia, exempted up until now by a 50-year-old right granted under the monarchy. A first recruiting drive made there in November last year reportedly had to be abandoned following demonstrations by tribesmen in Kabul centre.

Electricity supplies in Kabul are not cut daily, say Western diplomats. The two hydro-electric stations at Naghlu and Sarobi east of the capital are producing only 40 megawatts daily against the 140 mgw needs of the city in winter. The oil-powered station at Pule Charki produces only 20 mgw on two days a week because of regular attacks on fuel convoys by the freedom fighters. Diplomatic sources also confirmed this week that the hydro-electric station at Mahipar, situated on the River Kabul gorge 30 kilometres east of the capital had been seriously damaged at the end of December.

Mujahedeen Commander Abdul Haq said that he has blown up the pipe-line feeding the turbines at Mahipar and resistance sources also reported that two important towns, Herat in the west and Jellalab in the east, were virtually without electricity because of sabotage.

No petrol was officially on sale in the capital this week and rationing is expected to become general.

OFFICIAL SAYS NORMAL ELECTRICITY SUPPLY RESTORED

LD012048 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The flow of electricity from the Mahipar station was restored in Kabul today at 1300. At the citizens of Kabul are aware, some time ago the pylons of the Mahipar hydroelectric plant were damaged by counterrevolutionary elements -- those sold out enemies of the well-being of the people -- as a result of which Kabul's residents were onfronted with numerous difficulties in this year's severe cold weather.

As a result of the indefatigable efforts of the personnel of the Ministry of Electric Energy, the Mahipar electricity supply was restored to Kabul at 1300. A spokesman for the Ministry of Electric Energy told a Kabul radio correspondent that the pylons, which would have taken 3 months to rebuild, as a result of the patriotic activities of the personnel, were repaired within 17 days, restoring the normal flow of electricity to Kabul.

The deputy minister of electric energy told the Kabul radio correspondent:

[Begin recording] Today at 1300, the Mahipar station switched on again, resolving most most problems of the citizens. According to my latest information, the Mahipar station at the moment gives (?60) megawatts of electricity to Kabul. The electricity from the Naghlo, Sorobi and [name indistinct] stations is normal. [Sentence indistinct] The capacity of the Mahipar station is 66 megawatts. It has three turbines, each turbine having a 22-megawatt capacity, which is a total of 66 megawatts. [Sentence indistinct] At the moment, there is an adequate supply of water [words indistinct] [end recording]

GANDHI ON ASSAM, EFFORTS TO WEAKEN NONALIGNED

BK011705 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Gandhi has said that by holding general elections in Assam the government is discharging its constitutional obligation. Addressing a number of meetings in New Delhi today, she said when she sought the opposition parties' help for amending the Constitution to keep Assam under president's rule, they did not extend any help. After the elections were announced, they said the polls should be postponed and the Constitution amended. The government, Gandhi reiterated, was always ready to accept the genuine needs and to remove genuine grievances. Gandhi said the government is prepared to accept the genuine demands of Sikhs. Some of their demands, she said, concern other states whose interests are also to be kept in mind.

Condemning the tendencies of communalism and regionalism, the prime minister said that the government is paying full attention to the problems of the minorities. She said she is not worried about the opposition parties forming governments in the southern states, but what concerns her is regionalism.

Gandhi deplored efforts by certain countries to create differences among the nonaligned nations to weaken the movement. She said these elements do not want to see a strong India.

RAJIV GANDHI APPOINTED PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY

BK020957 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Rajiv Gandhi has been appointed general secretary of the All India Congress Committee-I. The other general secretary of the party appointed today is C.M. Stephen. Both the appointments were announced by the working president of the Congress-I, Kamalapati Tripathi. They filled the vacancies caused by the resignations of Vasantrao Patil and Satya Narain Rao. Their resignations have been accepted by the working president of the party.

BOMB EXPLODES ON ASSAM RAILROAD TRACK

BK020304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Agency reports say that there was a bomb explosion on the railway track between (Hawaipur) and (Lamsunkhan) stations of the Gauhati-Lumding section of the northeast frontier railway on Monday night. The engine of the Cachar-bound (Barak Valley) express was slightly damaged in the blast. The track was repaired and through running of trains was restored yesterday morning.

'DETAILED' TALKS HELD WITH UN'S CORDOVEZ

BK011530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The UN special representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, had detailed talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and senior officials in the Foreign Office in Islamabad today. He also informed the foreign minister of his talks in Kabul. The talks will continue tomorrow.

ZIA MEETS WITH SAUDI INTERIOR MINISTER 1 FEB

BK020137 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The Saudi Arabian interior minister, Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, arrived in Islamabad today on a brief visit. He is accompanied by three deputy ministers. The Saudi minister called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in the evening and discussed matters of mutual interest.

DPRK TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES 31 JANUARY

BK010332 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] An eight-member delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by Foreign Trade Minister Choe Chong-kun arrived in Karachi last night on a 10-day state visit to Pakistan. The delegation leader told a Radio Pakistan representative at the airport that he will hold talks in Islamabad on further promoting the friendly relations between the two countries.

ANOTHER NUCLEAR POWERPLANT COMMISSIONED

GF281204 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 28 Jan 83 p 7

[By correspondent]

[Text] Karachi -- The Pakistan Government has approved the setting up of 900-mw nuclear power reactor, which is to be commissioned by 1989-90, the latest issue of PAKATOM, a newsletter of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC] has reported.

This reactor, like the Karachi nuclear power plant, will also operate under IAEA safeguards, it said.

Underlining the economic aspect of nuclear power generation, the chairman of PAEC said that under Pakistani conditions, a standard nuclear power station will produce electricity at a much lower cost as compared to an equivalent oil-fired power plant.

Introduction of nuclear power in Pakistan was essential to meet the country's growing electricity needs, because 60 per cent of our total foreign exchange earnings was being spent on import of oil, he observed.

It said that Pakistan was pursuing a peaceful programme of atomic energy, consistent with its needs and limited resources. Besides developing nuclear power, Pakistan was placing strong emphasis on application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, medicine and industry.

A comprehensive study undertaken in Pakistan has indicated that a number of nuclear power stations over the next two decades were required to meet a gap of 5,000 to 80,000 mw between projected electricity demand and supply.

The PAEC chief also referred to the experience gained by the commission in the fabrication of indigenous fuel for the 137 mw nuclear power station set up in Karachi with the help of Canada.

PAPER ON F-16 PURCHASE, 'STRENGTHENED' DEFENSE

GF011820 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 31 Jan 83 p 3

[From the "International" edition -- Editorial: "Stronger Defense Wards Off Aggression"]

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan is a peaceloving nation and is desirous of maintaining friendly relations, particularly with its neighbors. However, the strengthening of its defense for maintaining peace, independence and safeguarding its territorial integrity is a fundamental need.

Pakistan has arranged to purchase 40 F-16's on a longterm payment basis from the United States. The first consignment of these airplanes arrived in Pakistan some days ago. The remaining 36 planes will reach Pakistan by 1985 under a longrange program. The United States displayed some hesitation and the Indian leaders' protests reached a crescendo over the sale of these planes to Pakistan. The influential zionist lobby and the vociferous pro-Indian lobby protested vehemently and this still continues. In view of this, the acquisition of these planes can be considered a major feat for the present regime.

Pakistan is a peaceloving nation and its defense is its basis necessity. Only when its defenses are strengthened can it flourish and make the necessary progress and implement its schemes for development. But its location is such that the conditions created by the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the unusual military preparations by Indian and certain other factors which had created a sense of insecurity do not need any explanation. Therefore, Pakistan had no choice but to strengthen its defenses.

NEW AZAD JAMMU, KASHMIR PRESIDENT SWORN IN

BK011413 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Retired Major General Abdur Rahman Khan was sworn in as the new president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Muzaffarabad today. He has replaced Brigadier General Mohammad Heyat Khan who has returned to the Armed Forces. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court Chief Justice (Raja Mohammad Khurshid Khan) administered the oath.

SYRIAN INFORMATION MINISTER ARRIVES 1 FEBRUARY

LD012157 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1, IRNA -- Syrian Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad heading a ranking delegation arrived here today to hold talks with Iranian authorities. At the airport, the Syrian delegation was welcomed by minster of ershad Islami (Islamic guidance), Mojjat ol-Eslam Khatami.

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad carried a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for his Iranian counterpart President Khamene'i.

Meeting With Majlis Speaker

GF020730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, who arrived in Tehran yesterday with the Syrian political under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, last night held talks with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Attneding this meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, were Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, minster of Islamic guidance, and Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affiars.

Both parties stressed the mutual stands of the two countries for peace in the region a and the imperative annihilation of the U.S. lackey regime of Saddam. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Saddam personally is not our main consideration; the fundamental issue is the defense of Islam and the removal of obstacles toward the unity of Muslims. For this reason, they also stressed the ousting of the United States from the region and demanded the realization of Palestinian rights. The speaker also stressed that after the overthrow of the aggressive Saddam regime, Iran is ready to devote a greater share of its capabilities to waging serious struggle against the upsurping Israel.

While emphasizing the every increasing strength of the Islamic warriors, Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Syrian minister that if countries assisting the aggressive Saddam regime would cease their support, after the final victory, our warriors will respect their boundaries and Iran will defend the security of these countries.

PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISER STRESSES COMMON VIEWS

LD012049 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1, IRNA -- He Ying, the Chinese Foreign Minstry advisor, stressed Iran's and China's common opinion pertaining to international problems. He also condemned the aggressive nature of superpowers and emphasized the strengthening of cooperation with Third World countries which, he said, was the cornerstone of the Chinese foreign policy.

Mr. Ying said his country favoured international peace and that China will support the independence and free Iran in the heart of Asia.

The Chinese minister before leaving here today for Beijing in a press interview further said that the unjust economic system in the world should be amended.

Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was also extended an invitation to visit China.

During the five day stay of the Chinese delegation talks on expansion of cooperation and strengthening of political, cultural and social ties were discussed.

The Chinese delegation headed by He Ying arrived here on 28th Feb. 1983. [as received]

RAILWAY COOPERATION TALKS WITH USSR BEGIN 1 FEB

GF011828 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1 IRNA -- A 3-day discussion for Irano-Soviet cooperation in railways started today.

Iranian delegation, headed by technical deputy of the state-owned railways organisation, Davud Sorush-Nasab, is taking part in the discussion while the soviet Union is being represented by Deputy Minister of Railways Sosnin.

DEPUTY MINISTER LEAVES FOR CUBA, ALGERIA, LIBYA

LD291159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi, who is leading a political delegation for talks with the authorities in Cuba, Algeria, and Libya in connection with the conference of the heads of nonaligned countries, due to be held in India, has left for those countries. In an interview given to our correspondent prior to his departure, he discussed the aims of his trip.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr 'Azizi, could you please tell us (?about the purpose of your visit) and how long it will last?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks to the efforts by Islam's combatants in changing the venue of the conference of heads of nonaligned countries from Baghdad to another place and in view of the successes achieved by our combatants in bringing about a strong movement of realism in the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to participate actively in the altered venue of the conference in New Delhi. With the presence of the spirit of the Islamic Revolution and the presence of the President Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the conference, it is hoped -- God willing -- that the movement will in the long run be guided toward real nonalignment and genuine independence and toward cleansing the movement from its impure elements.

This visit is being paid to Cuba, Libya, and Algeria and I am carrying a message from President Khamene'i for the heads of these countries, that is, Fidel Castro, Chadli Bendjedid, and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In the course of this visit and in the meetings which we will have with the heads of these three countries and also with the ministers of foreign affairs -- God willing -- an attempt will be made to discuss with them the viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to this conference and its plans for its active participation and that of the movement's member countries in New Delhi and -- God willing -- we will reach common viewpoints. Thereby, our efforts will be more fruitful. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,201

LD011749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,201 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, fighting continued in the southern fronts of the country with sporadic fire exchanged and limited engagements between the fighters of Islam and Saddam's mercenaries. Our powerful fighters, strengthening their defensive positions and guarding the area under their protection, opened artillery fire and other heavy weapons on the positions and fortifications of Saddam's forces, silencing their fire and controlling their activities.

At 0600 yesterday, elements from the Iraqi forces in the Faqih region tried to penetrate our defensive lines. The victorious forces of Islam stopped them by opening fire. Saddam's mercenaries were forced to flee after suffering losses and casualities.

In the exchange of fire in the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the heroic forces of the Navy and Gendarmerie replied to the Iraqi fire, stopped the enemy fire, and inflicted damage upon them. The exchange of fire was more intense in the (Shalamcheh) and Pol-e-Now regions. During the past 24 hours, Saddam's criminal mercenaries brought the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr under their artillery fire. On thewestern fronts, as in previous days, our forces and the enemy were confined to exchanging fire.

Our powerful forces continued their defensive operations along all fronts. By engaging in defensive fire and sending groups on patrol, they inflicted blows upon the enemy and succeeded in destroying two Iraqi tanks and one truck, killing some of their personnel.

Along the Musian front, the heroic forces of the Gendarmerie responded to enemy fire and, maintaining their superior firepower, succeeded in silencing the fire of Saddam's forces which was relatively intense in their region. Along the Marivan front, the fighters from the Ground Forces opened artillery fire on enemy positions and units in Tutman and (Bnavireh) and stopped their activities, destroying five trenches and foxholes of Saddam's forces along with a number of their personnel.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

COMMANDER REPORTS 180 IRAQI PLANES DOWNED

LD012053 Tehran IRNA in English 1924 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Mashhad, Feb 1, IRNA -- One hundred eighty war planes of the aggressor Iraqi Army were shot down by the brave pilots and anti-aircraft units of the Islamic Republic over the past 18 months, said the Air Force Commander Colonel Mohammad Mo'inpur here today.

The Air Force commander added that Iran has lost one tenth of the above mentioned enemy's figure during the same period of time.

He further said that despite all material and military supports provided to Iraq by all superpowers and reactionary rulers of the region since the beginning of the imposed war, nothing has improved the Iraqis' ability to counter the Iranian army as the Iranian Muslims enjoy the support of Allah.

Colonel Mo'inpur also added that despite all sanctions and restrictions imposed on the Islamic Republic by its foreign enemies regarding the supply of arms, Iran's forces are prepared for air battle against the mercenaries of world oppressors better than the past.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF INDIA'S NATWAR SINGH

24 January Arrival

LD242100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The Indian deputy foreign minister, who is also secretary general of the seventh nonaligned summit conference, arrived in Tehran this afternoon to have discussions with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on coordinating and bringing closer together the positions of the two countries in the next nonaligned summit conference to be held in New Delhi. He was welcomed by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of political affairs, and the Indian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Concerning the purpose of his visit to Iran, the secretary general of the seventh nonaligned summit conference said in an interview with our correspondent: In view of the convening of this conference in India, I and my colleagues have traveled to a number of countries who are members of this Nonaligned Movement in order to coordinate views or activities. Iran is an important country and we attach a great deal of importance to it. Iran's views concerning various international issues are of great importance to us. He added: In view of my responsibilities, in my discussions with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we will talk about the expansion of bilateral relations as well as about international developments and issues. These discussions will include political and economic issues, disarmament, the aggressions of the regime occupying Jerusalem in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, and the issue of South Africa and Namibia.

Concerning the changing of the venue of the nonaligned conference from Baghdad to New Delhi, the secretary general of the seventh nonaligned summit conference said: In view of the difficulties facing the Nonaligned Movement, we are trying to find solutions to these problems. No doubt, there are differences of views among the members of the Nonaligned Movement. However, I hope the Nonaligned Movement will not meet the same fate as the United Nations. Iran and India, as two important members of the Nonaligned Movement and in view of their close historical and cultural relations, can play an important role in this movement.

Velayati Meeting

LD260334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The Indian deputy minister of external affairs met Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon. During the meeting, our country's minister of foreign affairs, referring to the importance of the Nonaligned Movement and the effort to safeguard its principles and values, emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's active participation in the conference of the heads of the nonaligned countries and declared our country's readiness to cooperate in any effort aimed at holding that conference in the best possible manner.

During the meeting, the Indian deputy minister of external affairs said: Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are of great importance to India. He expressed the hope that the two countries' political, economic, and cultural relations would expand daily.

Foreign Ministry Official

LD260340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The Indian deputy minister of external affairs, who arrived in Tehran yesterday to coordinate and study issues to be raised at the seventh conference of heads of nonaligned countries in New Delhi, met and had talks today with Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary in our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The situation in Kampuchea and Afghanistan, the special fund project proposed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iraq's imposed war on Iran were discussed.

Discussion on Trade

GF261622 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA -- Trade relations between Iran and India were discussed in a meeting involving the visiting deputy foreign minister of India, Natwar Singh, and the Iranian deputy commerce minister, Majid Hedayatzadeh, here today.

The talks centered on further expansion of trade relations based on the principle of neither East nor West.

Hedayatzadeh told the Indian deputy foreign minister that following the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and despite the difficulties created by superpowers and problems caused by Iraqi imposed war, Iran managed to boost its economy.

During the meeting both sides stressed the need for mutual technical, economic and trade cooperation.

The Indian official who is also the secretary general of the seventh summit meeting of the non-aligned countries scheduled to open in New Delhi next March, arrived here last Monday and has held several rounds of talks with various Iranian officials. In a meeting between the deputy foreign minister in charge of political affairs, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, and Mr. Singh on Tuesday, the forthcoming non-aligned summit meet was discussed.

Natwar Singh Comments

LD271213 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA -- Natwar Singh, Indian deputy foreign minister and secretary general of the 7th New Delhi summit, said here Thursday that issues pertaining to Kampuchea, Afghanistan, Africa and Iran-Iraq war would be discussed at the forthcoming conference.

Speaking prior to his departure, Singh noted that 22 countries had been invited to the New Delhi conference as observers, adding that the Non-Aligned Movement would also take decision on the requests for membership of Venezuela and Colombia.

Describing his talks with Iranian officials as being successful, the Indian official said that economic, political and cultural issues were also discussed.

Meanwhile, a cultural agreement was signed between India and the Islamic Republic of Iran enabling the two sides to expand their cultural ties and assist each other in the fields of arts.

Talks With Khamene'i

BK271300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] Mr Natwar Singh, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, met the Iranian president, Mr Khamene'i, in Tehran and discussed with him the issues likely to come up before the nonaligned summit in New Delhi. He told the Iranian leader that the decisions taken at the summit will have large effects on humanity's wellbeing.

Mr Khamene'i said if the spiritual values of the Nonaligned Movement are maintained, they will contribute to the betterment of human welfare.

Mr Natwar Singh also met the Iranian deputy commerce minister and the deputy foreign minister. He discussed with them the need to strengthen bilateral technical, economic and trade cooperation.

Protocol Signed

BK281616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] India and Iran are setting up a special joint committee to promote commercial exchanges to find solutions to trade and payments problems. Iran has agreed to provide multientry business visas to Indian businessmen. These decisions were taken during talks held by Natwar Singh, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, with the Iranian Government in Tehran. He also signed a protocol on the exchange of films, photographs, students, researchers, and teachers.

Natwar Singh discussed with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati and others the issues relating to the coming nonaligned summit in New Delhi. He described his talks with the Iranian leaders as successful. Natwar Singh was talking to newsmen in Tehran before leaving for New Delhi.

MUSAVI-ARDABILI COMMENTS ON OPEC, IRAQ

GF281128 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0914 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Friday Arabic sermon by Supreme Court President Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili at Tehran University -- live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O Muslims everywhere. God's peace be upon all of you.

Our Muslim nation and its blessed and victorious revolution are experiencing difficult and serious circumstances. The imperialists are devoting all their efforts to thwart the pioneering experience of the Muslim Iranian people and to frustrate any Islamic achievement that results from it.

After waging the dirty war of aggression against Islamic and revolutionary Iran and against unarmed citizens and populated cities, and within the march lit by the arch-satan's lamp -- a march being pursued step by step by the 'Aflaqis of the infidel Iraqi regime -- we see that the 'Aflaqis recently have been declaring their rejection of all of Iran's just conditions that ensure an end to the war and that aggression will not be repeated. They are claiming that there is no way left to them but war. They imagine that the weapons of the West and the East will be useful to them.

Today, the faces have been clearly unmasked. The 'Aflaqis who believe continuing the aggression against Muslims and preoccupying their agent forces in aggression are the very same ones who are asserting the need to safeguard Israel's security, recognize the Zionist entity, and maintain the best of relations with the United States and the West, particularly France, as well as the traitorous Egyptian regime.

The mercenary trumpets of the reactionaries also are calling for a continuation of the fighting and are instigating the Iraqi Ba'thist butchers to commit greater aggression. The agent governments are supporting Iraq with all that they can so as to further their goals and interests and to preserve their shaky thrones. They are not content with giving military assistance to Iraq, they also are trying to give Iraq other economic and political privileges in all possible fields.

Thus, the reactionary regimes are implementing diabolical plots in OPEC in an attempt to undermine its independence and to weaken the Islamic and progressive current within it. The question is: Why all these plots and alliances? It is clear that there is a conflict between the forces of Islam, right and justice, and the forces of evil, infidelity and disobedience to God.

We must remain on the side of right until the last drop of our blood. We have no choice but to defend ourselves. As long as aggression continues, our defense and deadly campaigns against our enemies, the enemies of Islam and the nation, will escalate daily.

We do not fear any of these alliances. We disregard them. We do not fear the numerous military exercises and the operations of the 6th Fleet. We are proceeding forward along the path of great Islam until we achieve divine victory, with God's support and generosity. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [chants]

When the help of God comes, and victory, and you see men entering God's religion in throngs, then praise your lord, and seek His forgiveness for He is forgiving. [Koranic verse]

COUNCIL TO DISTRIBUTE ESSENTIAL GOODS FORMED

GF011653 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1 IRNA -- In order to coordinate the distribution of imported goods and domestic production, the Supreme Economic Council decided Monday night to set up a Supreme Distribution Council headed by Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi with ministers of industries, finance, agriculture, transportation as members along with head of economic mobilisation headquarters and the governor of the Central Bank.

The council will be in charge of coordination for the distribution of goods through the Commerce Ministry across the country.

The Economic Council also approved plans for the import of basic goods, such as wheat, red meat, cooking oil, fertilisers, sugar and etc. for the next year.